

the latest

ISSUE

volume five
issue three

FREE

mid-july
ninety-three

The Ins and Outs of the
San Francisco Sex Clubs -
How Safe Are They?

See Story on Page 9



SACRAMENTO'S NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ITS FRIENDS

Will Bigotry Prevail?

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

See feature on page 12



Also, an exclusive Interview with

ANDY HOLMES

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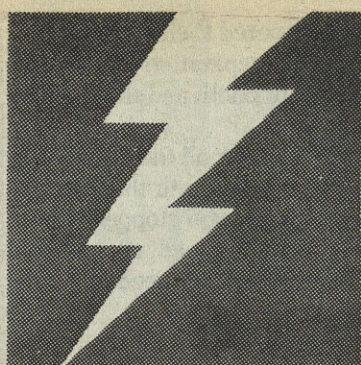
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Description: Please provide information on the game, services and/or information you will be providing at the Festival.

For additional information on the 1993 Rainbow Festival call Richard Boriolo or Sharon Marcus at (916) 441-3973.



the latest ISSUE

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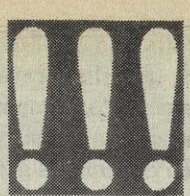
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really

I MUST SAY!

Help Feed the Homeless

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend an invitation to your readers who would like to volunteer and help feed the homeless of Sacramento. For the past two years, I have been coordinating a team of 20 to 30 people through River City Metropolitan Community Church.

The team members are not all from the Church, in fact, people from the Sacramento Men's Chorus and the Lesbian and Gay Business Alliance have been volunteering.

On the fourth Thursday of each month, our team prepares and serves a meal to the guests at the Loaves & Fishes dining room. The day is divided into two shifts. Volunteers for the first shift, from 8 to 11 a.m. prepare the meal and volunteers for the second shift, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. serve the guests and clean up.

We are the only gay and lesbian team of the 30 teams who volunteer at Loaves & Fishes. Last month our team served a meal to 950 people who were homeless or who couldn't afford to eat. Some of them were lesbian and gay. Volunteers are always needed, even if it's only for one meal a year. Call me if you would like to be on our team at 641-8775.

Sincerely,
Mike Starr-Fuhr

Democrat Chair Proud to March

Editor,

I was proud to march with the Alice B. Toklas Club in the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade.

Jesse Helms and Pete Wilson's Republican Party must be stopped in their efforts to discriminate against the lesbian and gay community.

The Republican Party must be

stopped in their efforts to discriminate against homosexuals.

The Democrats will work with the lesbian and gay community to help defeat Pete Wilson next.

Sincerely,

Bill Press

Chair California Democratic Party

AIDS Director Leaves Lambda

Editor,

I would like it to be known that on June 30, I will be stepping down as Director of AIDS Response Programs at the Lambda Community Center; indeed, will be leaving the Center altogether, after having worked with AIDS programs there for the past five years.

In stepping down, I would like to thank the greater Sacramento Gay, Lesbian, and Bi-sexual community for supporting AIDS Response, and for helping in the on-going efforts to protect our precious community, still so hugely at risk in this nightmare epidemic. Please know, I feel honored to have been of service.

I would also like to pay tribute to my wonderful Lambda Center staff -- Josie Miranda, Toni Callander, Brent Farrand, Ron Rosenblatt, Bob Rowe, John Rambo, Craig Spatola, Mike De Hart, and Christopher Russell. These are people with whom it has been a rare privilege to work, and without whom it would not have been possible to achieve the phenomenal success of these programs. Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.

My thanks also extend to the Sacramento County AIDS Education and Prevention Unit, particularly its Chief, Bernice Walton, and our County contract monitor, Giok Khoe. Words are inadequate to acknowledge the high degree of support the County continues to provide in the effort to protect and edu-

cate our community.

In leaving, I wish Lambda the best of luck for the future. My fervent hope is that the Center should some day achieve both the fiscal stability it needs to survive, and the whole-hearted support of the community it aims to serve.

Yours, sincerely,
Franklin John Kakies

Kakies Should Be Acknowledged

Editor,

My first visit to the Lambda Center was in 1990, when attending a play. That timid ascent up those stairs was the first in a series of events which eventually led to my coming out and finally accepting my homosexuality at the age of thirty.

The people there provided a place that was open, accepting and comfortable; a place in which I was able to become comfortable with and accepting of myself.

Franklin Kakies was one of those people. He was approachable, warm, understanding and a great listener.

Since that time, I have become less involved with the center, but I do keep in touch through the newsletter, the occasional donation (when I can manage) and a

continued friendship with Franklin. To me, he has come to represent the human element at the center.

In the five or more years he has been there he has not only done his job but has listened to doubtless hundreds of stories, seen many tragedies, helped countless people and survived many tumultuous changes at the center. Throughout it all he has been there ready to listen and help.

His coming out group provided a much needed resource for many people. His commitment and devotion was a valuable asset to the gay and lesbian community; which is why I am sad that his position has been eliminated, or assimilated, and he will be leaving the center.

I am sad, but I am also pissed off. I do not question the reasons or decisions surrounding his departure, nor do I think Franklin will suffer, for he has many talents and aspirations that could never have been realized in the demanding life of community service.

What I do object to, however, is the manner in which his departure has been treated, or should I say ignored. I was appalled to hear that at the recent awards dinner held by the center (to recognize and thank those

continued on page 4

I JUST CAN'T GET OVER IT. BARRY GOLDWATER - THE ORIGINAL ULTRA-RIGHT-WING, BOMBS-AND-JESUS REPUBLICAN, THINKS WE OUGHT TO BE ALLOWED IN THE MILITARY. AND HE PUT IT IN WRITING!



"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE STRAIGHT, YOU JUST HAVE TO SHOOT STRAIGHT." THAT'S WHAT HE WROTE!



I JUST CAN'T GET OVER IT.



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LETTERS

continued from page 3

serving our community), held only weeks prior to Franklin's departure, that there was no mention of his leaving.

There was no recognition of his five years of service to the center and the people involved, but simply a kick in the teeth to someone who has worked at the center longer than almost any-

body else there today.

If some sort of public recognition has been given and I am off base, I apologize. If it has not, then my faith and respect for the center is badly shaken.

I would like to close by recognizing and applauding Franklin's unselfish contribution to the community and to express my personal gratitude. Thank you Franklin and good luck.

Michael Perry

Archives of Our His/Herstory

Editor,

The Sacramento community should know of the wonderful resource we have in the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (GLHS).

For over eight years the dedicated members of the Historical Society have collected, preserved, and cherished our collective lesbian/gay/bi/transsexual experience.

The GLHS is a very exciting and active organization. It sponsors enlightening programs, edu-

cational exhibits and publishes Our Stories, an illustrated triannual journal. Most importantly, it maintains an extensive archives which documents generations of our diverse queer lives.

The GLHS is particularly looking for material documenting the Northern California community outside of San Francisco. Remember, we are all creating history every day. You can help make sure this history doesn't get lost. The historical Society can be reached at P.O. Box 424280, San Francisco, CA 94142, (415) 626-0980.

Thank you.

Eric Garber

Thanks Angels!

Editor,

I would like to extend a "Thank You" to the Lavender Angels

who donated their time and energy in preparation for and set up of our booth and self defense demo.

Thanks for all the hard work! Also, thank you to those in the community who stopped by our booth and signed up and donated money. We need your support.

Kona K.

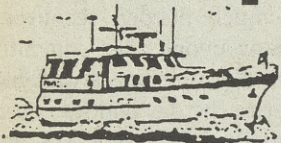
A Lavender Angel

LETTERS!

The latest ISSUE

welcomes letters on any subject. Be sure to include your name and phone number for verification. We will not print your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

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AROUND TOWN

An Openly Gay Assemblymember -- Maybe

by Michael R. Gorman

Several local gay political activists, including Karl Greene and Bil Gingrich, have become involved in a political campaign this summer. That in itself is no surprise. The unusual aspect of their involvement is that the campaign is centered in Santa Cruz county and does not involve Sacramento voters.

That is a fact organizers of the campaign hope to change.

Former Santa Cruz mayor John Laird is running for the State Assembly from the 27th District which includes Santa Cruz County and parts of Monterey County.

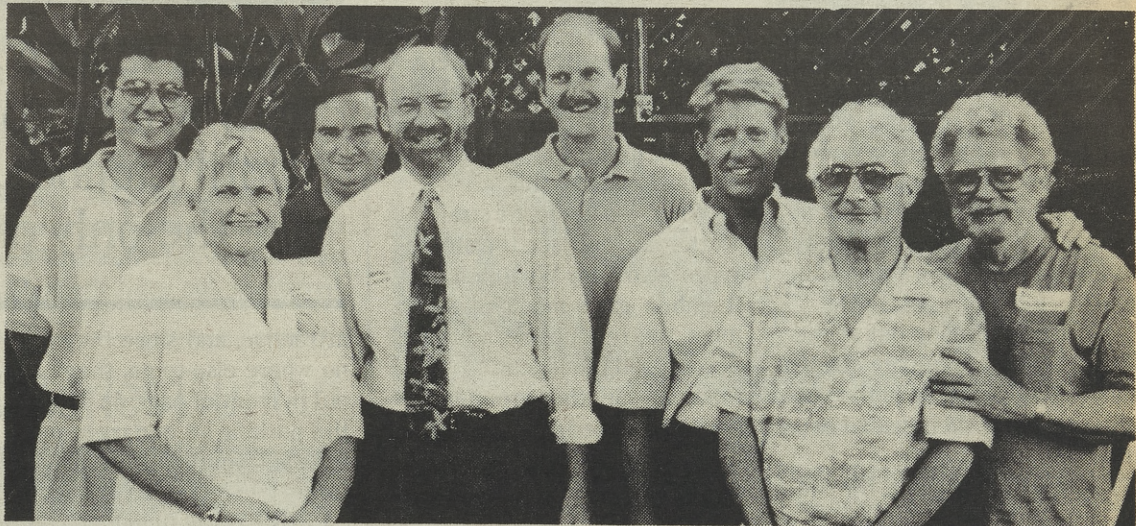
What makes Laird different is that he is openly gay and has been for his entire 20 year political career.

California has yet to elect an openly gay legislator, and Laird hopes to break through that glass ceiling in the special election in early November.

Laird recently resigned from his position as the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project in order to work full-time on his campaign. (He helped found the project.) If he is elected,

he will be the first former executive director of an AIDS service organization to enter the California legislature as well.

John Laird made national news when he was first elected as mayor of Santa Cruz, something of a political anomaly at the time. Through his commitment to jobs, environmental integrity, human rights, and public transit, he has won the respect of voters across party lines. He is currently ahead in the polls. His only serious challenge is from a fellow Democrat in the September primary election who has connections through his campaign manager to Speaker Willie Brown. Brown thus far has remained officially neutral in the election. Several people on Laird's campaign say that the



RCDC sponsors an evening fundraiser for the Laird campaign. Attendees included Chip Neugebauer, Joan Barry, Gary Miller, John Laird, Michael Boyd, Dennis Mangers, Karl Greene and Bil Gingrich.

Republicans of the district hold out little hope of winning the election unless Laird loses the primary.

Because of his strong name recognition, solid experience, and high standing in the polls, The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington D.C. has officially endorsed John Laird for the California Assembly. The fund believes Laird is "our best shot at electing an openly gay person to the state legislature of California."

Local supporters may con-

tact the Laird campaign at (916) 927-2029. The Santa Cruz num-

ber is (408) 426-5900. The number is (202) 842-8679.

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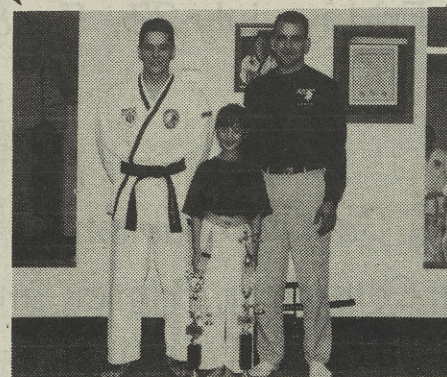
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the latest ISSUE 5

Gay Youth Need Our Help - Money, Time & Energy

by Shannon Wong-Lerner

With advances in openness and acceptance of gay, bi, and trans-gender youth, more and more are coming out in Sacramento.

The Lambda Community Center has a youth group designed for gay youth, but help is needed.

Several of Lambda's youth group members were interviewed to find out what it's like to be young in Sacramento's gay community, and what the community can do to better the lives of its youth.

The teens coming out at the Center's youth group are struggling with growing up in the 90s while realizing their sexual orientation.

"I dealt with this alone, for two

years before finding Lambda. I can be open with people here," said Freddy, 16, "I can talk to people and deal with what's going on in my life. I thought I was the only one like this."

"When you live in the straight world, you only see the stereotypes" said Tony Wichowski, 20, "Lambda gave me a place to meet the real people, who are decent, and intelligent."

Sammy, another group member, commented on the needs of the center this way, "I'd like to see more reaching out to the

youth. Maybe a counseling program... mentors... there's a lot to learn from the older generation."

"Adults complain how kids hang outside the gay clubs, but they don't realize that bars are

coordinator) elaborates, "For gay youth there's no other space in Sacramento where they can be immersed in the same culture, feelings and problems. It's something straight students get in school, but our youth get it

there was a place your own children frequented, you would probably give money or time to that place."

"At the last fund-raiser many adults would come to our booth and say, 'Oh, how wonderful!' or 'I wish there was something like this when I was your age!' said Liz, "Then they would just walk away."

In all of the interviews, the same message came through.

The gay youth of Sacramento feel they need a place to be who they are and mentors who can help separate the facts from the lesbian and gay stereotypes.

While the young adults are thankful for the haven provided by the Lambda Center, they are hopeful that contributions of time and money will one-day expand the Center's youth programs.

"I can talk to people and deal with what's going on in my life. Until Lambda, I thought I was the only one like this."

attractive, and since they have no where else to go, they hang out in front of bars, do drugs in the parking lot, and try to sneak in," said youth group member Liz.

Chris Russell (Lambda youth

only from a place like Lambda."

He went on to say, "We need more support from the gay community for youth programs. It's important that the gay community take responsibility for its youth as if it was their own. If

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getting OUTTA TOWN

Christian Right Outnumbered in Abortion Rights Battle

by Judi Parks

Operation Rescue's plan to shut down abortion clinics across the country the second week in July has been dealt a major defeat with the score of 55 pro-life arrests to only 4 pro-choice arrests.

The San Jose Police Department, and the people, however, may come out the greatest losers, serving up a bill to taxpayers that could approach \$2 million dollars.

In each San Jose skirmish, be it rally, clinic blockade, or harassment action aimed at doctor's residencies, the pro-choice clinic defenders have out numbered



Pro-choice demonstrators shout "Shame! Shame! Shame."

the pro-lifers and successfully kept clinics open for medical services and challenged protesters in residential neighborhoods.

San Jose's Planned Parenthood Clinic reported that 17 appointments were kept on Saturday despite the largest turnout of pro-life pickets, still numbering less than 100, who held prayer vigils, spoke in tongues, and exchanged arguments with over 300 angry clinic defenders.

Organizers of the anti-abor-

tion demonstrations expressed "sadness," and disappointment in the Christian churches lack of response to their call for action.

O.R. attorney Craig Cornell of the American Anti-Persecution League in Los Angeles has asked the California Superior Court in San Jose to grant a temporary injunction against San Jose police for limiting their pickets at doctors' homes, claiming violation of freedom of speech of the First Amendment.

Obituary for MCC's Rev. Lawrence Charles Dunlap

Born March 26, 1955 in Wallace, Indiana. Taken home to rest on July 7, 1993, in Sacramento after a lengthy battle with complications with AIDS.

An ordained minister in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, Rev. Larry was the former Associate Pastor and current Minister of Music at River City MCC in Sacramento.

He was also the former Senior Pastor of Emmanuel MCC in Spokane, WA, and had been actively involved in a number of UFMCC congregations around the Los Angeles area.

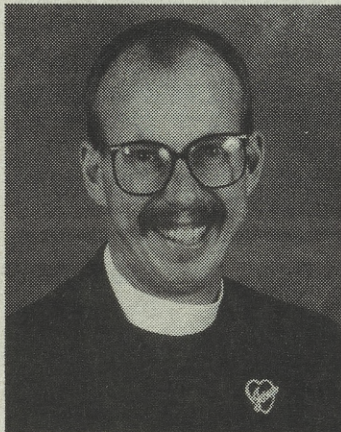
A resident of Sacramento for over 10 years, the "Rev" as he was affectionately known, dedicated his life to ministering and spreading God's word throughout the gay and lesbian community, with a special outreach to those who, like himself, lived with AIDS. He also provided strong spiritual guidance and eldership to a number of social and philanthropic organizations.

In returning home, Rev. Larry rejoined his father Clyde who preceded him in 1988. He is survived by his mother Marlene Joy Sacramento.

Dunlap of Sacramento, his sisters Lois Mellott of Beaverton, Oregon and Lynn Bieberdof of Hillsboro, Oregon and their husbands Bob Melott and Ted Bieberdof, a half brother Clyde Jr. of Flint, Michigan, a number of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and many close friends. At his request will be cremated and interred with his father in Cour d'Alene, Indiana.

A memorial service celebrating Rev. Larry will be conducted on Saturday, August 21, 1993, at 10 a.m. in the main sanctuary at River City MCC, 34th and Broadway, in Sacramento.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Sacramento



Rev. Larry Dunlap.

AIDS Foundation, Home Health Program, the Fairy Godfather's Fund or to River City MCC.



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HIV

POSITIVE

Alternative Choices in the Fight Against AIDS

by Mike Dehart

Within the raging face of the AIDS pandemic, some glimmers of hope and human compassion have shown through.

One such shining example is the Healing Alternatives Foundation (HAF) in San Francisco.

The Healing Alternatives Foundation, located at 1748 Market Street, saw its inception into the

AIDS/Alternative/experimental treatment community in April of 1987.

It is a non-profit organization that contains a HIV/AIDS treatment library that is open to the public 5 days a week. It is also a "buyer's club" providing products in direct response to community need.

HAF has a membership of over 2,000 and this number is growing. The Foundation was founded on the belief that HIV/AIDS can be a treatable, chronic disease requiring both early preventative measures and aggressive

treatment of opportunistic infections.

That philosophy is accompanied by the conviction that people with HIV/ARC/AIDS should become informed about and involved with their own program of treatment and that treatment options should be made available and affordable.

Over the course of many years, HAF has provided cutting edge treatments and a wide range of vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, etc. One shining example is the story of ddC, a commonly prescribed anti-retroviral drug. HAF sold ddC to the public for about two years before this drug was available by prescription from a doctor. Not only did they provide ddC, they sold it at very reasonable rates.

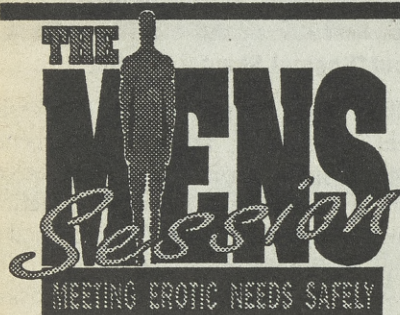
No doubt, many people would credit this to contributing to their health years before they could get this drug from their doctor. I am reminded of the now famous ACT UP slogan "AIDS won't wait."

HAF sells over 100 products, many of which are hard to find, or not widely available in this country. One such product is Compound Q (trichosanthin injectio). Genelabs is currently developing a drug GLQ223, which is virtually identical to Compound Q, which HAF has been carrying for years.

Another product is Glycyron, which is licorice root extract. This specific licorice root extract is the same product that is a prescribed drug in Japan. They also carry Saccharomyces boulardii, a "friendly yeast" which is often employed successfully in the treatment of diarrhea. These are but three out of a large selection of products available through the Healing Alternatives Foundation.

HAF's library houses a wide range of materials covering such areas as nutrition, the immune system, vitamins, herbs, psychosocial factors, and Eastern medicine. They also have a wonderful

continued on page 10



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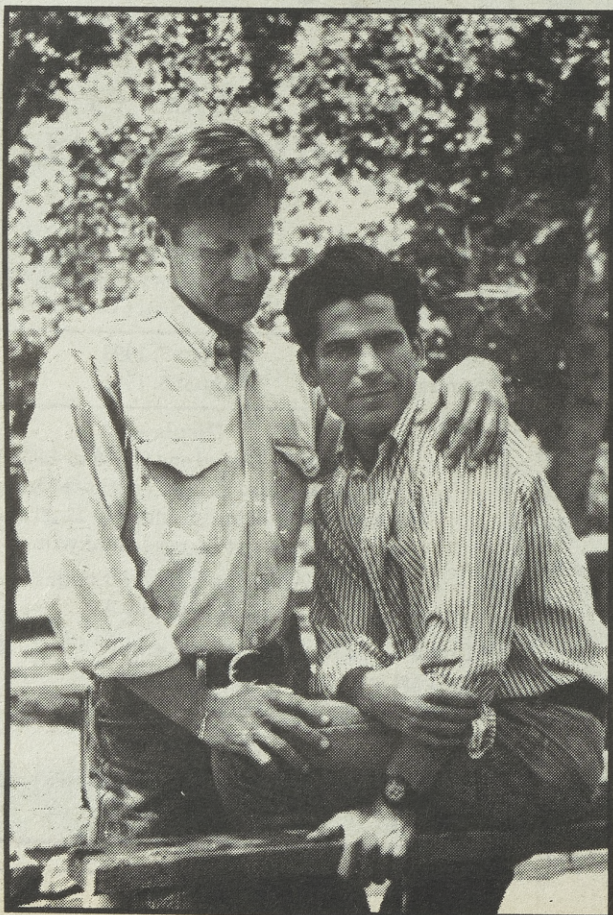


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San Francisco Sex Clubs -

A Venue for Safe Sex or HIV Transmission?

by Mike Kelley

With the recent emergence of recreational sex clubs in San Francisco and the Bay Area, safe-sex issues and rising HIV rates are the growing mutual concern of owners, clientele, and city health officials.

To the chagrin of many religious conservatives and worried gays themselves, these venues for exploring man-to-man sexual energy have proliferated since 1988, replacing the bathhouses shut down by the city in the mid-80s.

Many gays and straights alike are concerned that the aphrodisiac appeal of these clubs is causing some devotees to gamble with their lives.

Education Director at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Chuck Frutchev, views them with more hope: "The sex clubs are a

fact of life for gay and bisexual men, and we need to use them more effectively for practicing safe-sex. Disease can be controlled the same way now as 20 years ago with proper protection, so that even persons who have unabandoned sex with ten, partners a night, or hundreds a year, can play wildly, while staying safe and virally uncompromised."

National Public Radio reporter Frank Browning in his just-released book, *The Culture of Desire: Paradox and Perversity in Gay Lives Today*, states "Like the baths, they are hunting grounds for recreational orgasm. Unlike the baths, where men walked around clad only in a towel, sex-club patrons are generally fully dressed. The cold, objectified tyranny of the naked body that so dominated the bathhouses has been diminished, and the responses between hunter and hunted have become more complex. Men of varying ages (though mostly young) arrive in groups, talk, and spend social time with each other, then wander off into quieter halls or corners."

Many club brochures extol

"safe, sane, and consensual" play, but the venues are no longer bathhouses with predominantly small private cubicles. Instead, men now play out their chase from the large open rooms or doorless closets to the cavernous, sometimes partitioned open

spaces in clubs located throughout the South of Market Area warehouse district.

The July '93 copy of *sPuNk (JIZBIZ guide)* lists 8 Bay Area "Dark Rooms," including 1808 Club, (1808 Market with clothes check and "nude code"), Bayway Social Club (Oakland), Castro Party (within the Black Stallion Hotel), East Bay Glory Hole (Oakland), Eros (Market at Church, with "safe sex parties and events"), Mack (10th at Folsom), Mike's Night Gallery (1365 Folsom), and the Secret Gospel Church (6th Street and Clementina locations).

Under the "Fetish and Specialty" category, they listed the

Academy (for men-only, women-only, and pansexual SM play parties and training events to encourage novices, all gender identities, and all sexual orientations), Big Men's Club (on Castro), Blow Buddies (933 Harrison), Bondage Buddies, Cigar Studs, Girth & Mirth, Golden Gate Connection

("events for chubbies and chasers"), Handball Express (fisting, at Eros), Leather Buddies ("meat men in leather"), Links, Masters & Slaves Together, Mother Goose ("safe sex events for gay/les/bisexual" in Berkeley), Safer Sex Information Line ("free advice"), Taste of Latex, the 15 Association ("leather events"), The Sling, Trust (fisting), Uncircumcised Society of America, United Tops & Bottoms (1001 Page St.) and Uncut Men & Friends ("safe sex parties").

Bathhouses are now limited to Berkeley's Steamworks, San Jose's Watergarden, and

Steve's Club in Reno.

In many, if not most, of these newly burgeoning play centers, the safe-sex message is readily visible and constantly promoted. Rules are often posted right next to the entrance, where guests often must sign their invitation agreeing to practice safe-sex there according to standard guidelines.

Sacramento's Lambda Center and AIDS Foundation outreach efforts have made many readers aware that those practices include mutual masturbation, hugging, body rubbing, massage, dry kissing, fantasy, light SM without bleeding or bruising, and sex toys when used only on yourself.

Managers of San Francisco clubs, like the host at the Academy, boast of no longer getting hassled by police since the owners are co-operating with health organizations like the S.F. AIDS Commission, Stop AIDS Project, the city's AIDS Health Office, and the AIDS Foundation, which provide free condoms and latex gloves. San Francisco's

"Coalition for Healthy Sex" which has recently been monitoring these new clubs even has some club owners as its inspectors, besides those professionally trained as AIDS educators. The results of their unannounced visits to 14 clubs were printed earlier this month in the *Chronicle*.

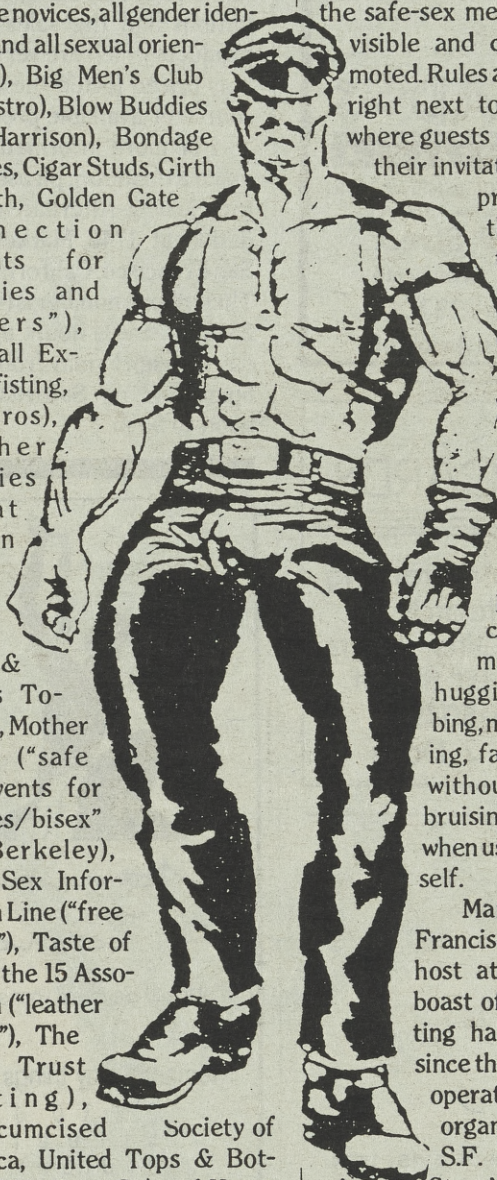
They based their guidelines on several factors, including the following: occurrences of unprotected anal intercourse, availability of condoms and lubricant, safe-sex information, clean-up facilities, sufficient lighting, and even fire exits.

The half which currently "passed the test" were the 1808 Club, Blow Buddies, Eros, Handball Express, Ecstasy, S.F. Jacks, and Mother Goose.

The half that didn't make the grade for one reason or another were Mike's Night Gallery, the 15, the Church, Bearhug, Leathernecks, Uncut Club, and Mack.

The bad news in May from S.F.'s Health Department documented that 12% of the 17-22-year old population now test positive, precipitated an editorial from the *Chronicle's* gay writer, Jeffrey Allen, in which he denounced "sex clubs and private video booths located in adult bookstores, where unsafe sex is still easily practiced both by adults who ought to know better and by vulnerable young men." He called video booths "cesspools of disease" and claimed the owners of adult bookstores

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Like the baths, they are hunting grounds for recreational orgasm.

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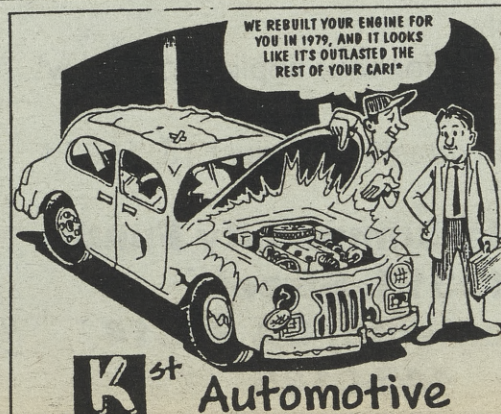
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HIV POSITIVE

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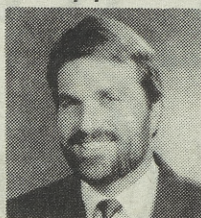
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SEX CLUBS

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and sex clubs are responsible for "an entire generation of youthful and promising gay men [who] are on the brink of annihilation by greed."

Dr. Mitchell Katz, director of the city health department's AIDS office, disagrees: "It's not the site that causes the infection, it's the behavior." Of the 474 gay men surveyed in the health department's most recent study, one in three admitted to still having anal sex without using condoms but most (64%) of them specified that the sex took place with a regular partner at home, not at a sex club or bookstore.

When asked whether he thought members of the younger generation were more prone than their older counterparts to dismiss the importance of safe-sex, manager of Mack, Otto Gilbert concluded that "if they're unsafe, it would be someone from 21 to 91." He said he feels that sex clubs strive

for safe sex, and that they are better alternatives to unsafe places like parks and alleys where there are no ready condoms or monitoring.

"Safe-sex and sex clubs go hand-in-hand together," according to the owner of Castro Party. Safe-sex there is mandatory according to the management's fliers, but is largely self-monitored, with the help of two employees who walk around keeping the many condom-bowls filled.

"Every one of these places has a different position on the continuum of desire," says Frank Browning, speaking less as NPR reporter than as one who frequents some of S.F.'s clubs and parks himself. "But the interesting thing about them as an archetype was this wonderful combination of a jack-off party where you're getting down and dirty and being sexual, a cocktail party where you're politely and very charmingly standing around and dishing things, a church social where you just hang out with a bunch of buddies -- all wrapped into one."

Browning philosophizes that "to be alive is to be at risk. Nowhere can sex be altogether safe, because sex is, for most of us, our primary, residual, atavistic connection to the realm of animal existence."

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CLINTON AND THE BAN: THE DEBATE BEHIND THE DECISION

by MICHAEL R. GORMAN

For weeks in May a Sacramentan could not pick up the local papers without finding articles on the Clinton Administration's proposed lifting of the ban on gay and lesbian soldiers in the U.S. Military.

In June and early July, suddenly the issue disappeared like a mirage of water does when the thirsty wanderer steps too close. Activists across the country began to worry that the

about an impending announcement from the president — after the bombing of Baghdad, before the summit in Japan, during his appearance at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. As of the latest *ISSUE's* printing deadline, no certain word had been forthcoming, though Ben-Shalom said, "My best guess is late on the 14th or early on the 15th. But the longer he takes the better it looks for us. He wants

"It will either be a joyous celebration or a very civilized but serious protest of something that is less than satisfactory."

Clinton campaign promise was as illusory as watering holes in the California desert. Even David Mixner, a close friend of Bill and Hillary's, told the latest *ISSUE* he was unwilling to make a call on this one.

As late as July 9, after returning from a week's vacation with "no phone," he said he had no new information, no predictions and no comment.

According to Miriam Ben-Shalom, the outreach coordinator for the Campaign For Military Service and a decorated veteran kicked out of service under the present policy, "The White House is playing this one very close to the vest. No one is talking. There are no leaks on this one."

For weeks in June and July rumors circulated in Washington D.C.

to put off the criticism as long as possible."

An issue of concern for gay activists as well as the Washington power brokers is the possibility of a compromise on the ban. Senator Sam Nunn (D - Ga.), who has been widely vilified in the gay lesbian and bisexual community of late for his support of the ban and his past firing of a gay aide, has been pushing a proposal which will end the blatant witch hunts in the services but will do little else to change the circumstances of gay and lesbian military personnel.

Congressman Barney Frank (D - Mass.) has floated his own compromise which is less onerous, but still falls short of equality for gay and

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Proposal	Questions Regarding Sexual Orientation	Speech	Conduct/Misconduct	Ban Lifted?
Campaign for Military Service	<p>Policy: Individuals entering the armed services, or undergoing security clearances, would not be asked if they were gay. Off-duty conduct, such as going to a gay bar or being seen with another gay person, would not permit a question regarding the person's homosexuality. On base, gay literature and photographs would also not trigger questions.</p> <p>Result: This is a true "don't ask" policy. That is, there are no inadvertent actions that a gay person could take on-base, and no intentional actions taken off-base that would permissibly trigger a question regarding the person's homosexuality.</p>	<p>Policy: A person could tell anyone that he or she is gay, on base or off-base, privately or publicly.</p> <p>Result: This approach allows gay people to live honestly and with dignity in the military and will provide them with real and effective security. As a practical matter, most gay people in the military will share information about themselves discreetly. There is no evidence that knowledge that a person is gay (either through private or public speech) will affect unit cohesion.</p>	<p>Policy: Would allow private, consensual sex between gay adults, off-base. Would have strict rules against misconduct, such as sexual harassment and fraternization. Would apply current rules against public manifestations of affection, on-base or in uniform, even-handedly between gay and straight people, with traditional discretion allowed to commanding officers.</p> <p>Result: This allows gay people to have private, fulfilling lives, just like straight people. This approach does not condone misconduct, such as sexual harassment, nor does it establish an unnecessary separate behavioral code for gay displays of affection.</p>	<p>Yes, because gay people cannot be discharged for acknowledging they are gay or for engaging in private gay conduct.</p>
Frank's Proposal	<p>Policy: Similar to the CMS proposal. Individuals entering the armed services, or undergoing security clearances, would not trigger questions regarding the person's homosexuality. On base, gay literature and photographs of partners would also not trigger questions.</p> <p>Result: Like the CMS approach, this is a true "don't ask" policy.</p>	<p>Policy: A person could privately tell a co-worker that he or she is gay. The person could also act in a manner off-base that made it clear the person is gay (e.g., appear at a gay event with a lover). But the person could not announce in a very "public" manner on base that he or she is gay.</p> <p>Result: Personal honesty is somewhat advanced by this approach because people can be honest with their coworkers. But an atmosphere of fear will still be maintained: when will a commander consider the speech too "public" and punish the gay person? Any restriction on saying that one is gay reduces the basic dignity of that person and leaves open the potential abuse of power.</p>	<p>Policy: Would allow private, consensual sex between gay adults, off-base. Probable Policy: Would not allow public manifestations of affection between gay people on base or in uniform. (May have separate rules to this effect.) Would have strict rules against misconduct, such as sexual harassment and fraternization.</p> <p>Result: This allows gay people to have private, off-duty lives, as straight people do. This approach does not condone misconduct such as sexual harassment. A separate behavioral code regarding gay displays of affection, however, is problematic because it is unnecessary given existing rules.</p>	<p>Unclear, because although gays cannot be discharged for privately acknowledging they may be disciplined for "public" statements or conduct while on base, on duty or in uniform.</p>
Nunn's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"	<p>Policy: Individuals entering the armed services would not be asked whether they are homosexual. Possible Policy: Perhaps people would not be asked during security clearances whether they are homosexual. It is unclear if going to a gay bar, reading a gay magazine, or attending a gay rights activity would trigger an investigation of whether the person is gay.</p> <p>Result: A commanding officer could always still ask a service member if he or she were gay. If the person were gay and chose to answer honestly, the person would be discharged. There would be no discretion to this discharge.</p>	<p>Policy: A person could not tell any co-worker, superior or subordinate that he or she is gay. A person could not engage in any action, on-base or off base, that would indicate the person is gay.</p> <p>Result: In most cases, gay people in the military have not told others they are gay. Instead, other people have told on them — based on an overheard conversation, reading the person's letters, or just suspecting the person. This approach forces people to live an ongoing lie, directly contrary to the military values of integrity and honesty, and maintains an ongoing fear of disclosure for gay people.</p>	<p>Policy: Would not allow any private, consensual sex between gay adults, on-base or off-base. Any homosexual sex would be grounds for criminal prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).</p> <p>Result: This effectively maintains the ban for everyone other than celibate gay people, which is unacceptable. This approach also ignores the fact that straight people engage in oral sex at the same incidence as gay people (which is equally prohibited by the UCMJ as sodomy) but such acts are not currently criminally prosecuted by the military.</p>	<p>No, because gay people can still be discharged for acknowledging they are gay or if found to have engaged in private consensual gay sex.</p>

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the latest ISSUE

mid-july

COMING OUT IN THE MILITARY

by STEVE BISTRANSKY

Andy Holmes recently came out publicly as a gay member of the United States armed forces. Until July 3, he was an active member of the California Army National Guard. He is now on inactive status and termination proceedings against him are moving ahead.

Andy is one of us, a resident of the Big Tomato.

He is a passionate man who feels strongly that what he is doing is right. Right, not just for himself, but right for the country.

When he became excited about what he was saying, his face which normally remained fixed, changed dramatically and became animated and alive with a child-like enthusiasm.

What follows is the result of our question-answer session.

LI: When did you first enter the California Army National guard and what are your duties in the guard?

AH: I was commissioned in the guard after I finished my ROTC training at Sac State. That was in 1988. For the past year and a half I have been on active duty with the Guard as part of the Counter Narcotics Task Force in Northern California. Previously, I went to Desert Storm and was called up for the Los Angeles Riots last year.

LI: What made you decide to come out publicly?

AH: I think what really convinced me to come-out was all the talk coming from Washington about compromise on the gay-ban, this "don't ask, don't tell" garbage... I gave Clinton my vote but when he started waffling on reversing the military ban on homosexuals, I started thinking that I had to do something.

I didn't want to serve in a bigoted Guard... and I had a lot of role models. People had started coming out: Keith Meinhold and Jose Zuniga and Zoe Duning, for example. After a lot of soul-searching I thought we'll handle it this way: we'll throw the government another curve, (they might respond) 'here's another good person we're throwing out.' I have been serving in the military since 1988 very effectively. I'm very proud of my record. I decided to take a stand.

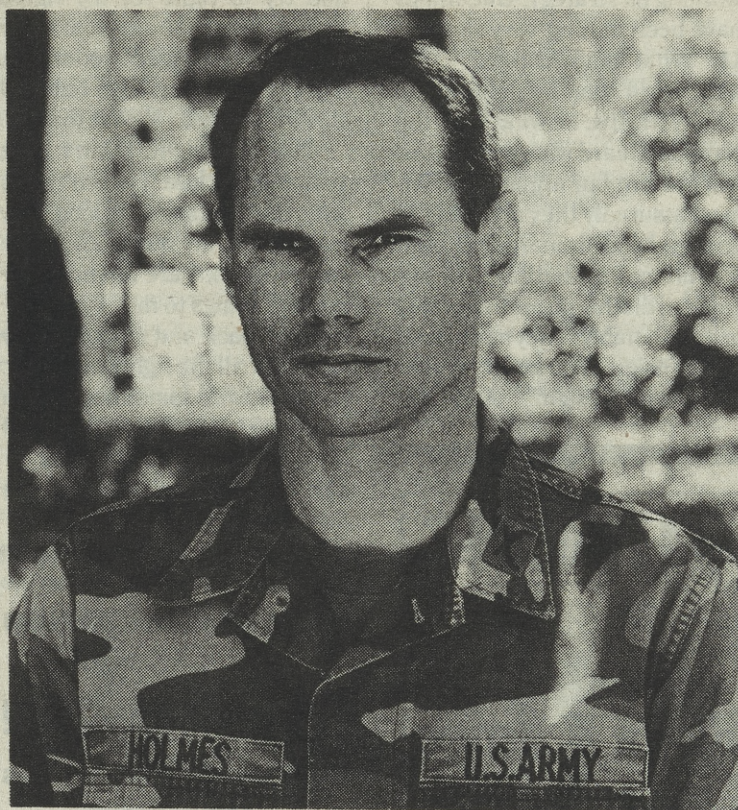
LI: How did that come about?

AH: On June 4th I sent a letter

to my commanding officer telling him I was gay. Nothing happened. I then consulted with Paul Wotman, my attorney, and we decided to issue a limited press release. Mr. Wotman has successfully handled gay-related law suits in the past.... On the 21st of June I received official notice from the National Guard that they were indeed going to process me for discharge. Since then I have been in touch with my attorney and we are going to be challenging, as an administrative procedure, the Guard's legal right in this state to discharge me.

LI: In this state? Is this where your case becomes unique?

AH: Yes. Our argument is based on changes in the California labor code under changes mandated by AB2601 which went into effect in January. This case is unique in the country. Others have tried to sue the federal government and their states for



Brian Ashby

Charles "Andy" Holmes came out as a gay man on July 3.

being discharged. What is different about this case versus cases in other states is that California has a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. And I work under the authority of the Governor of the State of California. I am an employee of the State even though some of my pay comes from the federal government. What's more, federal law says that it is the governor's responsibility to choose his own officers in the

state National Guard. Therefore the federal government should have no say in my discharge... I would hope Governor Wilson would intervene and say "Hey, that's my man," but he probably will just let it play itself

out in court.

LI: Where did you get the idea of using AB2601?

AH: I had met with Marge Covino at the Lambda Center. When I first decided that I wanted to do something I went to the Lambda Center and they have been very helpful. Marge Covino has been invaluable as a source of information. I can't speak high enough of her. One night I said to her, "You know I am a state employee. It would be funny if we could sue under the rules of AB2601."

I had said it flippantly but it hit her like a ton of bricks. Her face suddenly lit up. She said 'I know the attorney for you to call. In fact, I will call him and tell him about your case.' She was speaking of Paul Wotman. Mr. Wotman has already filed several lawsuits based on 2601. The next day he called me and we have been moving along ever since. I have met with him several times and we have been

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HOLMES

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working on strategy. But, things have been moving very slowly.

LI: What happens next?

AH: I will soon be going to an administrative hearing with the National Guard where each of us will present our arguments. Almost assuredly they are going to go ahead and discharge me. And it is unknown whether they are going to discharge me honorably or dishonorably. They have asked me to resign. You know "Won't you please resign." And the

implications have been that if I resign then I will be discharged honorably. But if I oppose them and try to fight for my rights then the implication is that I may not be discharged honorably. That is how they have handled this in the past. Veiled threats.

That's all right, I don't have that much to lose. I haven't been with the military that long. My conscience, my moral and ethical convictions are the most important things to me. I just cannot pull back and let somebody else fight all the fights... forever. It is time to do something. I wish everyone could do something. I know some can't. But I can.

LI: More could come-out than do come-out.

AH: Yes, this is true. This has not been an easy thing for me

either. I've been a quiet person most of my life. It's not every day that you go on television in front of the entire nation and say "I'm gay." People say to me "You're courageous." And I say "No, not really. I just did what I had to do." Kind of modestly, you know. But now that I have done it and I look back I say "Yes, it did take a lot of courage." Either that or craziness. But it is hard. It's been rough. It has put some of my family through some hell. My dad has been supportive but my mom is scared for me. You know moms... they worry about things like safety... and the future. She is worried about my future and what impact this will have on that.

LI: What about you? Are you worried?

AH: Yes, I'm kinda worried about my future, too. This is bound to have some negative impact. For instance I had applied for a job and they had told me that I was next on the list to be hired. But now that I have gone public I am not even being considered for the position.

They won't even see me; they won't talk with me. You see, I have always been able to hide my gayness in the closet. Because of that I didn't know what discrimination was like. But now I am starting to see it. And it's scary.

LI: How would like all this to turn out? I mean without going too far into fantasyland?

AH: The California Military Veterans Code says that the Governor has the authority to appoint his officers. Ideally I would like the Governor to say "You know I signed AB2601. I'll choose my

officers and I, by State law, choose not to discriminate based on the candidate's sexual orientation."

Commanders can verbally abuse them, can openly talk like a bigot to them. Anybody can say anything about a gay person with no retribution because there are

If you are closeted, come-out. The rush from the freedom it gives you is overwhelming.

no rules prohibiting it. Yes, I would have the Governor take whatever steps necessary to help end this bigotry.

I would also like to see this case go through the courts and the courts decide, there is a delineation here. They don't have blanket authority over every person in every state militia.

LI: What do you think President Clinton is going to do on the ban?

AH: My contacts say he is going with the compromise. But I would like to see him lift the ban by executive order just as he promised. And let the chips fall where they may. The military is ready for it. They have been researching it. It's just that the bigotry and fear gets in the way of their better judgement.

LI: Where do you think you will be in five years?

AH: You know if you had asked me that two months ago I could have answered you. Now, I just don't know.

LI: This interview, when it is released will be read by several thousand lesbians and gays and bi's. What final thing would you like to say to them.

AH: If you are closeted, come-out. The rush from the freedom it gives you is overwhelming.

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MILITARY

continued from page 12

lesbian soldiers, the goal of the plan backed by the Campaign For Military Service and most national gay activists. (See accompanying chart for details.)

One California political aide spoke of meeting president Clinton recently and mentioning the difficulty of the issue. Clinton rolled his eyes in a "more than you know" expression. The aide went on to tell Clinton to do what his heart told him, and Clinton replied, "But I want to win this one."

Les Aspin presented three versions of a compromise on the ban to President Clinton when he met with him in Korea over

the July 10th weekend. Included was his own recommendation, which, like all three, did not include full equality for gay service personnel.

Pentagon officials did say that Aspin and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are in agreement on a compromise. However, Powell wishes to retain language from the current policy stating that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

Aspin has been working to assuage the general's concerns without retaining the language which could have strong legal consequences, allowing military officials to continue to restrict the speech and behavior of gay

and lesbian soldiers.

According to Ben-Shalom, a retention of the incompatibility language would be inconsistent with the military's own research. "A friend of mine went to the Pentagon library to find material that supports the ban. There is not one piece of empirical evidence in the Pentagon library to support the policy. All of its own studies conclude that homosexuality is not a problem."

The most recent such study is the Rand Report, commissioned by the Pentagon, which recommends the lifting of the ban and the decriminalization of sodomy. The Pentagon has yet to release that report even though those on the committee made public

its conclusions.

Should the ban be lifted, Senator Nunn has indicated he will go to Congress to try to codify the ban in the law. Although the White House does not believe that it has the votes to sustain an outright lifting of the ban, it does hold out hope for support of a compromise, especially one supported by Powell.

Some activists believe that, given the distinguished military careers of soldiers like Tet Offensive veteran and celebrated nurse Colonel Cammemeyer, Nunn's short service in the Coast Guard will pale in comparison, and many will be reluctant to support him.

And with more and more sci-

entific evidence indicating that sexual orientation is largely genetic, more enlightened lawmakers will be unwilling to go on record as supporting discrimination based on an immutable characteristic which does not in itself interfere with the duties of a soldier.

For now, the country waits for the president to show his hand.

Veteran activists in at least twenty cities are making plans for the day of the announcement. According to Ben-Shalom, "It will either be a joyous celebration or a very civilized but serious protest of something that is less than satisfactory."



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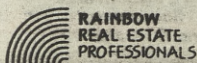
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Tower Theatre

Theatre—Live
The Lambda Players

Politically Correct Woman
Laurie McBride

Politically Correct Man (tie)
Alan LoFaso
Robert Rios

Lesbian/Gay
Business Person
Terry Sidie (owner of Faces)

Lesbian/Gay Organization
Lambda Community Center

As selected by the lesbian/gay community
at the Lambda Freedom Fair, June 19, 1993

15thursday

SHOCK

Shock 1993 an art exhibition of censored work shows at the Michael Himovitz Gallery, 1020 Tenth Street, Sacramento. Call (916) 448-8723 for information.

July 15 - Aug. 7

"Introductions '93" work by Roni Santiago presented at Archival Framing, 1729 L Street. Call 444-9624 for information.

July 15 - 30

"Aaah..., Yes, it's Love!" a musical revue plays at Garbeau's Too! in Old Sacramento. Call 985-6758 for information.

July 15 - Aug. 8

Lesbian and Gay Business Alliance LGBA networking meeting and barbecue at 7 p.m. Location to be announced. Deadline for directory. Call 641-8775 for information.

16friday

Garbeau's Dinner Theatre presents Agatha Christie's Murder at the Vicarage. Call 985-6361 for information.

The Mommies perform at The Crest Theatre at 1013 K Street Sacramento at 7 pm and 9:15 pm. Call 707-645-2960 for information.

Mr. Wreck Room Contest at 10:30

pm at the Wreck Room, 2513 Broadway sponsored by the Sacramento Leather Association. For information call 863-3398.

17saturday

Home Buying Seminar at the Lambda

Community Center. Learn how to get pre-approved to buy the home of your dreams. Free. For more details call 328-8898.

Mateel Women's Music Festival outdoors at Beginnings, Briceland from 1 pm - 10 pm. Call (707) 247-3378 for information.

Leather Fantasy Show at 9 pm, at the Wreck Room sponsored by S.L.A. Call 863-3398 for details.

San Diego Pride Celebration call (619) 29-PROUD for information. July 17 - 18

18sunday

Sacramento Leather Association's 4th Anniversary Party at Joseph's, 2062 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

19monday

RCDC meeting at the YWCA at 17th and L Streets at 6:30 pm with guest speaker City Councilman Darrell Steinberg.

The Persuasions will perform in a free concert on the UC Davis Quad at 7:30 pm. For information call (916) 757-3199.

20tuesday

SAGA IV Bingo Night upstairs at the Townhouse from 7 pm - 10 pm. Call 635-1535 for information.

Smoking Cessation Class- "My Choice-Smoke Free"- orientation meeting at 7pm at the Lambda Com-

munity Center. Call 366-4469 for information.

Sacramento PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets at 7:30 pm at the Adult Education Room, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento. Call 665-1050 for information.

21wednesday

Laurel and Hardy Film Festival at The Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street Sacramento. Call 44-CREST for information. July 21 - 24

22thursday

SAGA IV Roller Skating Party at Foothill Skate Inn, 4700 Auburn Blvd. from 8:30 - 10:30 pm. Call 635-1535 for information.

24saturday

CompuSystems Grand Opening Party at 1819 J Street from 5-8 pm. Call 448-2383.

10th Annual 21st Birthday Party for Jammin' Jo Tierney at the Tuesday Club. A benefit for Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change. Party begins at 8pm.

Midtown Fair at Marshal Park, 28th & J St., Sacramento from 10 am - 5 pm. Mumbo Gumbo and other bands will perform

throughout the day.

Sunny Bell and the Untamed perform at Cafe Montreal, 2326 K St. 8:30pm - 12pm.

25sunday

AIDS Walk San Francisco

28wednesday

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Jewish Group meets at 7:30 pm. Call Ellie at 334-0667 for location.

30friday

Culinary Images of China featuring photographs by Remi Ceci. Reception at Muffins Etc., 5635 H Street from 7-9 pm.

31saturday

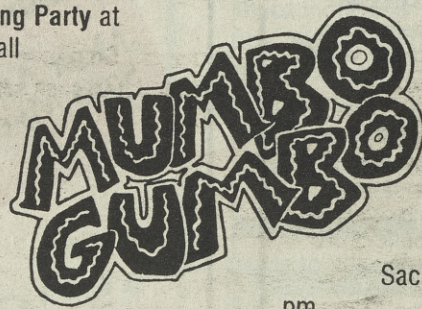
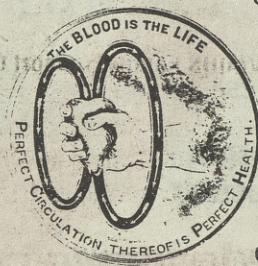
"Afrikan

Writers Speak On Faith, Hope, and Unity"- a poetry session held at the main room of Inter-faith Service Bureau, 3720 Folsom Avenue, Sacramento, at 3:30 pm.

River Rafting Trip sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Business Alliance. Call 641-8775 for more info.

5thursday

Romancing Valentino plays at the



Chautauqua Playhouse. Call 489-PLAY for information. August 5 - 21

7 saturday

Women's Fast Pitch Reunion at Curtis Park, Noon - 5pm. A day of women, softball and fun in the sun. Call Jo for more details, 489-5656.

Sacramento International Depression Glass Club 22nd Anniversary Show & Sale at Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street. Call 456-2280 for info. August 7 - 8

Adopt a Pet sponsored by the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Premium Pet, Greenback Lane at Auburn Blvd. Call 725-2556 for information.

Arts & Crafts Faire & Flea Market at 7486 Center Parkway, Sacramento. Sponsored by Faith Community UCC. Call 428-5157 for information.

8 sunday

"Concours d'Elegance" an ABCM custom bicycle show and Rally in front of the Tower Cafe from 11 am to 3 pm. Call 454-3317 for information.

11 wednesday

"Burn This" plays at the Crestview Theatre, at Manzanita and Winding Way in Carmichael. Call 441-1176 for information.

13 friday

Russian River Leather Weekend - "A Year of New Energy" Call 415-364-1915.

14 saturday

Chalk It Up To Sacramento sidewalk art on view promoting the upcoming Labor Day festival. Call 484-5710 for information.

19 thursday

In-Town Show at Faces, 2000 K Street, 7:30 featuring local performers to promote the Ducal Ball.

11th Annual Symposium, The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights at the Benson Hotel, Portland, Oregon.

20 friday

Out-of-Town Show at the Sierra Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd. \$5 cover 8:30pm featuring performers to prepare you for the Ducal Ball

21 saturday

Ducal Ball at Turn Verien Hall, 3349 J Street, doors open at 6, show starts at 7pm. \$15 per person.

Home Buying Seminar at the Lambda Com-

munity Center. Learn how to get pre-approved to buy the home of your dreams. Free. For more details call 328-8898.

22 sunday

Michael Himovitz Gallery hosts an art exhibit to benefit the Sacramento AIDS Response Program from 1-4 pm, 1020 Tenth Street.

Victory Brunch, at the Sierra Inn, 11am, \$15. Celebrating the new Duke and Duchess of the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire.

26 thursday

Roller Skating Party sponsored by SAGA IV at Foothill Skate Inn. Call 635-1535 for more info.

31 tuesday

Rainbow Festival 93, sponsored by Faces, 2000 K Street as a benefit for Hope House and the Lambda Community Center. The tent goes up today that will house entertainment for this year's Festival. Entertainment

includes Evelyn "Champagne" King, Lois Bromfield and many others. The Rainbow Festival Street Fair is September 5. Call 448-7798 for booth information. See registration form on page 2.

Plan-It In Advance

To list your events in the Daily Plan-it, send a brief description of the event along with any graphic images you may have before the 5th of each month to: **the latest ISSUE**

P.O. Box 160584
Sacramento, CA 95816.

MONDAYS

Survivors of Sexual Abuse women's group from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. every other Monday, also Tuesday nights. Call 783-0579 for information.

Twin Spirits meets 3rd Monday of the month. Call 383-0940 for information.

Worried Well Support Group, for HIV negative people affected by Positive loved ones. 1st and 3rd Mondays. 6:30 p.m. Call 448-2437 for details.

Domestic Violence, a drop-in support group for men and women

at the Lambda Community Center 7 - 8:30 p.m. Call 442-0185 for information.

Men's Coming Out Group at the Lambda Center, 1931 L Street. Call 442-0185 for details.

Lesbian and Gay Town Council, 2nd Monday of each month. Call 448-0422 for info.

TUESDAYS

Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival organizing committee meets at the Lambda Center

at 5:30. Call Allen at 482-6397 for information.

Being Gay Today, 10 p.m. on cable 18. An hour of lesbian and

gay programming.

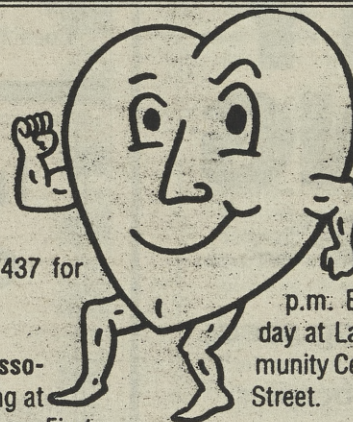
Heart to Heart, a HIV+ support group that is for gay and bi-men to talk about common emotions. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 920 20th Street. Call 448-2437 for info.

Sacramento Leather Association, monthly meeting at the Wreck Room, 7 p.m. First Tuesday of each month. For info. call 863-3398.

THURSDAYS

HIV/AIDS Family Support Group on the first and third Thursdays at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 4641 Marconi Ave. For information call 483-5691.

CODA is a fellowship of gay men



+ lesbian women recovering from co-dependent relationships. Meets 7:30

p.m. Every Thursday at Lambda Community Center. 1931 L Street.

Rainbow Real Estate Professionals meets on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Hungry Hunter, 450 Bercut Drive, Sacramento. For information call 921-6642.

Women's Coming Out Group meets from 6-7:30 at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street. Call 442-0185 for more information.

FRIDAYS

Youth Group at Lambda Community Center at 5:45 p.m. for gay, lesbian, and bi youth under age 21. Call Christopher at 442-0185 for information.

SUNDAYS

Dignity/Sacramento meets at 6 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Call 443-8084 for information.

River City Metropolitan Community Church worship services, Call 737-3409 for times. Channel 17 also shows services, Mon-7pm., Tues-1pm, Wed-7am.

Women of Color Support Group, every Sunday, 7:15 - 9 p.m. Lambda Center 1931 L Street. Call 442-0185 for info.



the latest

ENTERTAINMENT

Olivia Records Celebrates 20th Anniversary

by Joyce Bezazian

Olivia Records celebrated its 20th anniversary of creating lesbian music and culture in June.

The festivities culminated during the San Francisco Pride weekend with a concert showcasing their artists, including Cris Williamson, Tret Fure, Dianne Davidson, Deidre McCalla, Linda Tillery, Nancy Vogel, Teresa Trull, and Lucie Blue Tremblay.



Joyce Bezazian

Tret Fure and Cris Williamson after Olivia Records anniversary show.

Lesbian comics Karen Williams and Suzanne Westenhoeffer played MC at the event, which was followed by a reception for

all the artists.

Excitement was in the air, with a feeling of pride and solidarity that always seems to accompany Olivia events.

Linda Tillery and her "Skin Tight Band" (which included an always campy and rambunctious Teresa Trull) performed for an anniversary dance co-sponsored

by Bay Area Career Women, and all attendees were invited to march with the Olivia float in the parade on Sunday.

Olivia's founder and president, Judy Dlugacz, has seen the company grow from a small collective with big dreams in the early 70's to a large corporation producing music and luxury cruises for women.

It has been suggested that without an organization like Olivia to increase lesbian visibility and create a sense of unity, community, and culture, an event like the recent March on Washington would not have been possible.

Olivia records has a rich history, and references to "Chris" or "Meg" (Christian) were often used as safe screening devices for lesbians to signal themselves to each other.

Countless women were validated and comforted in their coming out by Chris Williamson's album "The Changer and the

Changed" over 15 years ago and sales for that album alone have totaled over 300,000 to date. It was, in fact, Cris Williamson who first suggested that the collective start a woman's record company.

Olivia has since broadened its scope in the scheme of the women's community by bringing lesbians from all over the world together on their cruises and vacations.

The sense of isolation many lesbians feel living in rural areas or leading closeted lives is broken. They come away feeling a sense of pride and connection with each other and their histories and identities as lesbians.

Changing the world in some way and creating a safe place for women is a primary goal of Judy Dlugacz. Creating music, entertainment and art for lesbian women has been a powerful tool in making Olivia Records a success.

Happy Anniversary.

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KVIE Premieres Its Own Original Drama

by Chris Narloch

The world premiere film version of Sacramento playwright Robert Irvin's "Neath California Skies" was greeted with thunderous applause June 24 at the Crest Theater.

Local PBS station KVIE, which

put the project together, can take pride in the brand new production, their first original drama. What's more, with the networks becoming increasingly conservative, KVIE must be commended for taking a chance on a play with gay themes.

"Neath California Skies" is a fictionalized version of the details surrounding one of the last mob lynchings in California.

Scotty and Kenny are two down and out low-lives who hatch a plan to kidnap a rich, young businessman named Peter for ransom. The scheme gets complicated when a diary reveals their captive is a gay man.

The most compelling aspect to writer Irvin's approach is the way his villains display their jealousy and homophobia.

They abduct Peter for his money, but they kill him for his sexuality, a device which sets the tale apart from standard kidnapping dramas. Every viewer should feel the sting when Scotty, the more brutish of the killers, violates Peter by reading romantic entries from the gay man's journal.

The mocking tone in Scotty's voice, as portrayed by the skillful Rick Gott, is gay-baiting at its

lowest. Gott's fine performance also suggested that the character's violence might be the result of (repressed) homosexual desires of his own.

The other two members of the play's mini-ensemble rise to the occasion as well. Mark Licals played Peter with just enough insolence to make the part more complex than the usual victim.

And Arthur Ward manages to make memorable the least interesting character, Kenneth, the doltish driver at a loss to stop his murderous partner.

Director Carol Lancaster is to be credited for her grace in stepping out of the way to allow the actors and the writer to shine. Her choice to keep the explicit violence offscreen works well, and the spare production rarely calls attention to itself.

My only quibble would be the fact that the producers were forced to cut twenty minutes of Irvin's work to fit into an hour time slot, a decision which makes the play less fluid. Still, this is an admirable debut (hoped to be the first of several) for home-made drama at KVIE.

Look for it in the future on Cable 7 and other PBS stations.

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PACKARD REHABILITATION

International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival Was Hot

by Chris Narloch

The only thing hotter than the 100 plus temperatures inside the Castro Theater were the movies in this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

Even lack of air conditioning during last month's heat wave could not deter loyal film fans from the 17th annual event. This year's ten-day fest, the largest exposition of its kind, featured more than 260 films at seven Bay Area venues.

There was something to please every cultural and sexual persuasion, including works from India, Asia, Australia and Europe. Among the highlights was the world premiere of "Confession of a Pretty Lady," a new BBC portrait of Sandra Bernhard; the West Coast debut of "Wittgenstein," a bio of the philosopher by Derek Jarman (director of "Edward II"); and the first Gay Erotic Video Awards, described as an "Oscar-style event."

The first of five full-length flicks I caught was a new print of "Mala Noche," the first (and best) film by renegade director Gus Van Sant. This harrowing account of street kids in Portland boasts the brutal realism of Van Sant's "Drugstore Cowboy" without the self-indulgence of "My Own Private Idaho."

"Mala Noche" details the skid-row romance of Walt, a twenty something grocery store clerk, and Johnny, a 16-year-old illegal alien. Van Sant's unflinching style makes unlikely material into a moving love story. He never judges his characters who use each other in equal measure. Look for "Mala Noche" to hit video this fall to coincide with the release of "Even Cowgirls Get The Blues," Van Sant's next theatrical release.

The most entertaining movie I saw this year was a lesbian martial arts epic, "The East Is Red," a dynamite feminist ac-

tion flick from Hong Kong. With white-haired demons, buckets of blood and brief, but intense, sapphic sex, the film is nothing if not unique.

This big-budget fantasy was a definite crowd pleaser, never letting up its fast and furious pace. The colorful plot is indescribable (and incomprehensible) but who cares when the mixture of action and comedy is this perfect. "The East Is Red" is still shopping for a distributor in this country, but should have no trouble finding one after its rousing reception.

For my money, the best comedy was "Grief," a bent variation on soapdish. Featuring a funny ensemble cast and some terrific bitchy dialogue, "Grief" tells the story of a very bad courtroom drama and the zany characters who create it. Cutie-

pie Craig Chester is wonderful as the love-starved head writer, and Kent Fuhr, as his caustic female producer, resembles a dark-haired "Divine."

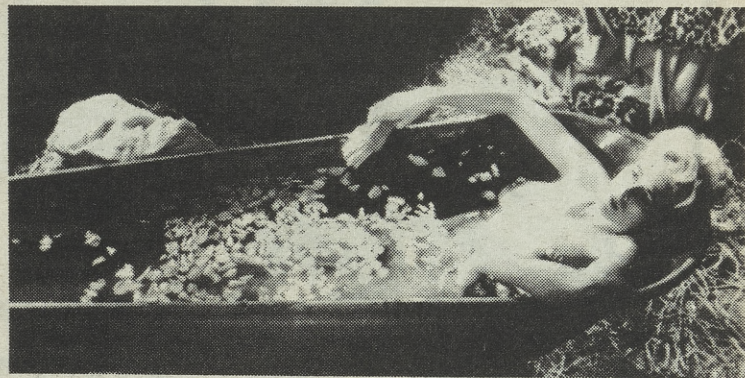
"Grief" looks like the ultimate gay midnight movie. Let's hope it makes it to Sacramento soon.

The lesbian film "Belle," from the Netherlands, chronicles what happens when a talented young woman gives up her girlfriend in favor of a marriage of convenience.

Crisply photographed in spectacular black and white, this ambitious drama keeps losing steam. Still, the lead actress is ravishing, and the film has one truly great scene: when Belle writes her girlfriend's name on her husband's back with whipped cream and then licks it off.

The "surprise" sneak preview I attended turned out to be a disappointing dud titled "Patient Zero," a bizarre musical comedy about the 'first' AIDS patient, a flight attendant who may have helped spread the disease at the start of the epidemic. Clever musical numbers (including "Pop-A-Boner") couldn't rescue the long, dull stretches.

I watched five excellent short
continued on page 20



A scene from the film "Belle."

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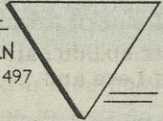
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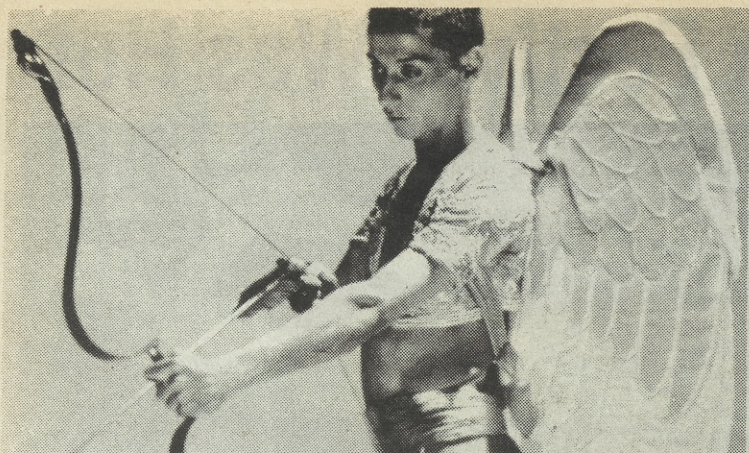


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A scene from "The Attendant".

MOVIES

continued from page 19

films as well, a few of which I hope to see again this October when Sacramento hosts its own 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival:

"Plain Truth" is a wonderfully disturbing portrait of a female to male transexual. Thanks to some dazzling camerawork, we get a genuine feeling for the subject's state of mind before and after the gen-

der switch.

"The Attendant" is a stunner about the double life of an employee in an art museum. After hours one of the paintings comes to life, and its gorgeous slaves in gold codpieces join our hero for a little bondage and discipline.

"Intrepidissima" deals with a little girl's frustration at being forced to shop for frilly clothes. A clever tomboy, she enacts revenge by cutting up mom's credit cards.

"The Disco Years" is a witty

coming-of-age story that centers around the coming-out of a high-school boy. When his love deserts him and mom flips out, he finds solace at the nearby disco (in true 70's fashion.)

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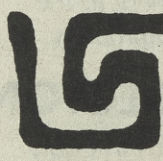
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Romance and Dance With Summer Music

by Bill Peterson

For some light summer



Lauper's latest will be a return to form after the lackluster "A Night to Remember" in 1989. With this album, Lauper makes a tentative step towards ditching her wacky thrift store maven

arrives with her debut album, which delivers exactly what you would expect. Opening with "Supermodel (You Better Work)" RuPaul camps it up on

the other eleven tracks, and concocts several potential sound-alike hits such as "Back to My Roots" and "House of Love".

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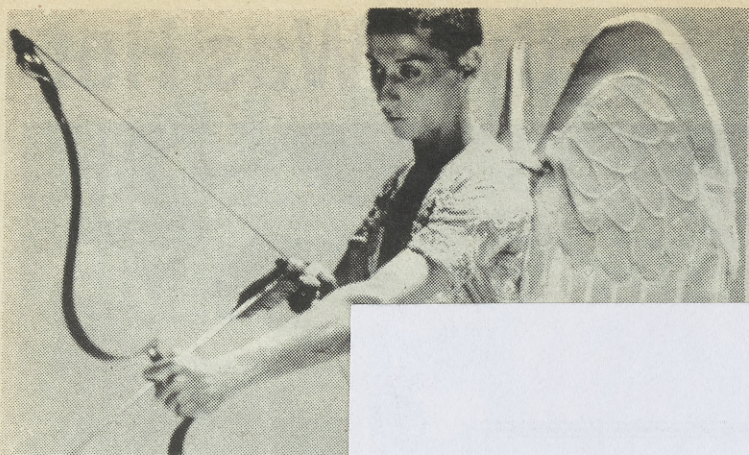
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A scene from "The Attendant".

MOVIES

continued from page 19

films as well, a few of which I hope to see again this October when Sacramento hosts its own 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival:

"Plain Truth" is a wonder-

der switch.

"The Attendant" is a stunner about the double life of an employee in an art museum. After hours one of the paintings comes to life, and its gorgeous slaves in gold codpieces join our hero for a little bondage and discipline.

"Intrepidissima" deals with

coming-of-age story that centers around the coming-out of a high-school boy. When his love deserts him and mom flips out, he finds solace at the nearby disco (in true 70's fashion.)

"The Fairy Who Didn't Want To Be A Fairy Anymore" is a gem about a fairy who wants to

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Romance and Dance With Summer Music

by Bill Peterson

For some light summer romance, put down that Harlequin with Fabion on the cover and try the latest album by singer-songwriter Brenda Russell.

Russell's last hit was 1988's Grammy nominated "Piano in the Dark", and her songs have been covered by the likes of Oleta Adams and Chaka Khan, so you can expect the same smooth, mid-tempo R & B.

With a voice similar to Dionne Warwick's, several tunes recall the Bacharach/ David days, as on "No Time for Time", with its gentle harmonica embellishment. Elsewhere, Russell tries for the Gloria Estefan Latin-Lite sound on "The Universe is Calling You." But the album's highlight



Brenda Russell.

is the beautiful "You'll Fall in Love Again," with swelling strings and acoustic guitar accenting the brooding lyrics - "Just like a paper plane/ That takes a sudden dive/ like clinging to a dream/ that barely is alive/ It's only love they say/ the worlds not gonna end." ***

Cyndi Lauper Hat Full of Stars

From the chirpy and thumpy album opener "That 's What I Think", it would seem that

Lauper's latest will be a return to form after the lackluster "A Night to Remember" in 1989.

With this album, Lauper makes a tentative step towards ditching her wacky thrift store maven image and establishing herself as a "serious" artist with such topics as spousal abuse, hate crime and, on the Mary Chapin Carpenter Collaboration, "Sally's Pigeons," adolescent abortion.

While the songs are decent, the standouts here are her sensitive ballads in the mold of her "Time After Time". With "Who Let in the Rain" and "Hat Full of Stars", Lauper's songwriting distills the experiences of breakup into universal terms - "I envy lovers passing by out on the street/ 'cause what they have I couldn't keep." *** 1/2

RuPaul - Supermodel of the World

America's favorite drag queen

arrives with her debut album, which delivers exactly what you would expect. Opening with "Supermodel (You Better Work)" RuPaul camps it up on

the other eleven tracks, and concocts several potential sound-alike hits such as "Back to My Roots" and "House of Love". **



RuPaul, Supermodel of the World.

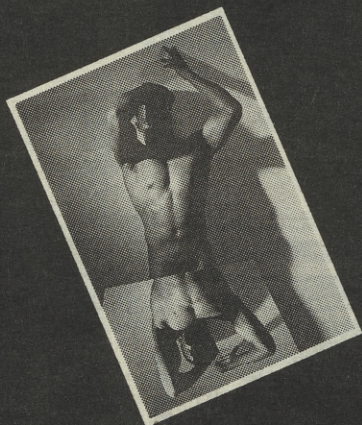


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Winners of the "Living Out" Poetry Contest

At the Water's Edge for Mike Gius

This close to the water,
the holes fill in as fast as you dig them.
They need to be here,
this close to the water.
Ultimately the tide will go out

and take with it the difficulty of digging.
It doesn't do to wait for the tide.
Some holes just have to be dug.
And inside each one of them will lay
a part of you that says you tried.

With the next tide will come fresh sand
ripe for the digging, and a new approach
with a little more distance.
But right now these holes have to be here,
this close to the water.

by Constance M. Carter

Saturday Morning

He sits,
a crumb's toss away.

Ker-blamm!
The shotgun blasts.

His shirt echoes the
perfect blue that
sent coffee sloshing
hot on my hand
when our eyes met
at the door.

*Inches from the
smoking barrel a
denuded face
gazes quizzically
up the sights.*

Propped elbow-wise at
the table, lean
torso meeting thighs in an angle of skintight
denim, he weaves fingertips
through black short-cut hair.

*A soft shower of
feathers and -one
would imagine-gore
settles over the two.*

I fire several
rounds of percussive
heartbeats; the
recoil shakes my chest.
How can he not have heard
their loud report? Yet
he sits, unhearing,
unseeing, unaware.

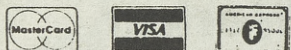
*One frame later,
a fully fledged
Daffy renews his
taunting.*

I raise my cup and sip.

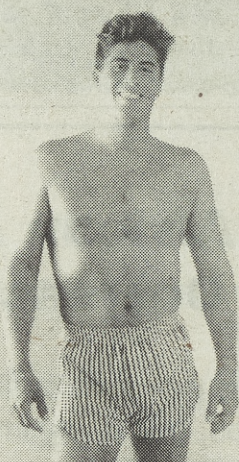
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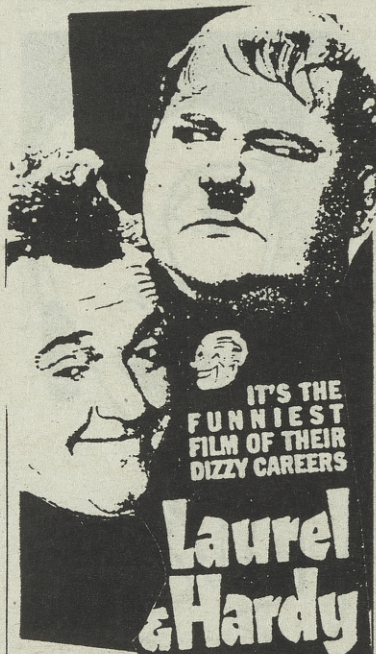
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GALLERY GUIDE!

Yearly Exhibition Introduces New Talent

by D. Oldham

Each year galleries gather their newest and brightest artists and present their works in a city-wide exhibition. "Introductions '93" continues this fine tradition.

Following the lead of larger cities, Sacramento began its "Introductions" exhibit years ago and since then it has become a celebrated yearly event.

Taking place each July, local galleries join together in presenting the works of new emerging artists. Each gallery features an artist or a group of artists they believe to have great potential.

Past "Introductions" have included such notable artists as Miriam Davis, Scott Runion and Corey Okada. Many of this year's current artists should go on to enjoy the same success.

One of the most varied "Introductions '93" exhibitions is the show now on view at Big Art. Located above the Mercantile Saloon, this exhibition space (which shares its walls with the "Big Hair" salon) has a reputation for displaying art that plays to the lighter side of life.

This month's show is no exception. Barbara Weiss' homage to Andy Warhol reminds the viewer of Warhol's kitchy view of American life. Mary Rose transforms an everyday lamp with a swish of acrylic, and Eddie



Camacho points out the adversities of life in the gay community in his imposing watercolors.

The standout in this group exhibition is an artist from Scotland who makes his Sacramento debut at Big Art. Tom McKieth pushes at political messages and social comment with a bold, almost graphic style. His heavy use of the black line mixed with a vivid palette gives his work an electric appeal, bordering on the comic. "Don't Worrybe Happy" - a mixed media wall piece - best sums up McKieth's unique style.

Other galleries participating in "Introductions '93" include

the Judith Weintraub Gallery, Lite Rail Gallery and Archival Framing. The work on view is exciting and many of these artists may well become Sacramento's favorites in years to come.

"Introductions" is the perfect time to add to your collection while these artists are emerging and the prices are enticing. Spend a hot summer afternoon visiting the "Introductions" galleries and introduce yourself to

Sacramento's new and promising future.

Galleries A Go-Go

Archival Framing: 1729 L Street. Through July 30 "Introductions '93" Roni Santiago and Daisy Mah, Aug. 3 through Aug. 28. "Wonderland," a group exhibit honoring Lewis Carroll. Reception: Saturday Aug. 14, 7-9 p.m. For more information: 444-9624.

Big Art: 1928 L Street. Through Sept. 9: "Introductions '93" work by Barbara Weiss, Eddie Camacho, Tom McKieth and Mary Rose. For more information: 446-2740.

The Center for Contemporary Art: 1116 15th Street. "Drawing..." work by Rebecca Gozion, Anne Gregory, Michael Lecompte, Brenda Loie, Pam Maddock and Karla Holland Scoler. "Twisters" an installation in the center's "Window Gallery" by Galelyn William. Through July 25, 1993 for information: 448-6269.

Lite Rail Gallery: 912 12th Street. Through Aug. 13: "Introductions '93" Guy Colwell, Meridy Volz, Glen Watson and Lisa Bryant. For more information: 441-1013.

The Michael Himovitz Gallery: 1020 10th Street. "Shock 93" group exhibition through Aug. 7. Sunday Aug. 22: Benefit for the Sacramento AIDS Response Program, "Have I Got a Dealer for You" Art by Art-Related Folks: dealers, reviewers, etc. For more information: 448-8723.

J. Maddox Parker Gallery: 1107 22nd Street. "Art Redux" Group Exhibition through Aug. 8 for more information: 448-6616.

The Judith Weintraub Gallery: 1723 J Street. "Introductions '93" Erika Crosby, Peter Gould, Gayla Pius and Brian Federici through Aug. 7. For more information: 442-3360.

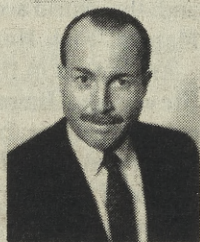
The Dean Moniz Gallery: 1825 Q Street. "Artists from the short center" through Aug. 7. For more information: 448-4039.

Studio Show and Sale: Saturday July 31, 10-5 pm Flo Fahrenheit's Studio: 5520 Elvas Ave. For more information: 451-1547.

Solomon Dubnick Gallery: 2131 Northrop. Through July 31: Dawn Arrowsmith: Paintings Dean De Cocker: Mixed Media. For more information: 920-4547

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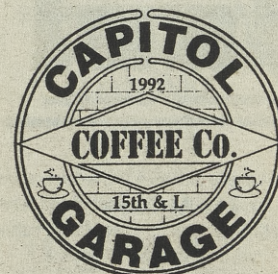
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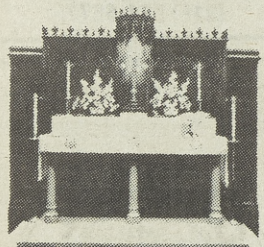
People are more friendly, parties are more frequent, and the gossip is great!



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Welcoming the gay and
lesbian community and its
friends

The season got off to a roaring start with last month's Lambda Fair. Even though the mercury passed 100 degrees early in the day, the event drew record crowds. Folks came out on foot, on bikes, and on rollerblades to strut their stuff and celebrate their pride in the community.

Sacramento lesbian Phoebe Zymmel noted an interesting trend at the fair. "Fewer lesbians brought family members on leashes this year," she said, "and far more brought them in strollers."

Hundreds of people stopped by the latest *ISSUE's* booth to cast a ballot for the Best of Gay

Sacramento. Laurie McBride easily retained her title as Most Politically Correct Lesbian, while Alan Lofaso (last year's most P.C. Gay Man) barely hung on. He tied with LIFE Lobbyist, Robert Rios for the title this year.

Less successful was Shannon McCullough, who lobbied hard but lost in both the Best Bartender (won by Face's Ron Heinrich) and Best Hair Color categories.

At another Lambda Fair event, Bill Albertson, bisexual leather slut extraordinaire (his own words -- would I mess with a leather man?) was chosen as the 1993 Poet Laureate of

Lavender Heights. Copies of the contest's book, "Voices from the Heights," are still available. Call Michael Gorman at 443-5625 for details.

Poet Constance Carter, who won honorable mention in the Lavender Heights contest, placed first in the latest *ISSUE's* poetry competition. Her poem is among those published in the paper this month.

The deadline for the latest *ISSUE's* photography contest has been extended to August 5. To win fame, fortune (well, \$50 anyway), and the admiration of your friends, submit your best photo on the theme "Living Out." Winners will be displayed in next month's paper.

In continuing festival fun, the annual Rainbow Festival, will be held on Labor Day weekend. A totally unconfirmed and highly unreliable rumor, is that self-proclaimed supermodel of the world, RuPaul, may be headlining the Rainbow Festival entertainment. But if he's not available, there may still be time to book Helen Reddy.

In other entertainment news, Patricia Charbonneau the dark haired beauty of "Desert Hearts" fame is starring in a local production. The play, "Burn This," is being presented from August 11 through Sep-

tember 19 at the Crestview Theater.

And speaking of theaters, Gary Watt -- who has managed Tower Theater since 1980 -- has been fired by the company that owns the theater. Gary has done a great job presenting a variety of films on gay themes over the years, and he will be sorely missed.

Another hip new business has opened in midtown. Check out the Rag Bag, a used clothing store on J Street (near Hot Tacky) for the newest look in old clothes.

And don't miss the big garage sale on Saturday, July 31, to benefit Capital City Squares and The Sacramento Men's Chorus. The sale will be held from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm at 22nd and Streets, adjacent to the Gift Gardeners.

With the recent opening of the Silver Spur (in the former home of Shaker's restaurant on Broadway, Sacramento's gay community has a new bar. The clientele is mixed (men and women) and presents an all-out party format with plenty of room for dancing.

The Mirage, which has been operating successfully for several months now, is holding a Baby Grand Opening in August. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the bar at 15th and streets, the party gives you the perfect opportunity.

And speaking of parties, Jo Tierney is turning 30. In what was officially her last annual birthday, Jo will celebrate with her friends on July 24 at the Tuesday Club. The \$5 collected at the door will be donated to Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change, and everyone is welcome to join the party.

Also celebrating summertime birthdays are Sacramento artist and sushi server Sherry Marghi "Fish Head" Myers.

And love is in the air for Bob Steves and Jimmy Short who celebrate their 2nd year anniversary on July 21. Congrats!

Would you like to share your birthday, anniversary, or some truly vicious gossip with Sacramento's gay community? Just drop us a line and we will include as much as space permits. Of course, preference will be given to the really juicy stuff.

See ya at the Rainbow Festival, September 5!

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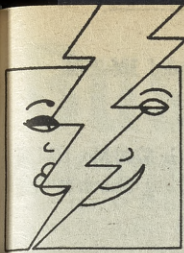
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OFF THE EDGE

Want an Edgy Award? Just Send Us \$25

by Stacy Selmants

While friendly recognition from one's peers may be a rewarding experience, the real truth is that if you live long enough, and crash enough parties, ALMOST anyone (well, maybe not David Koresh) can win a "community" award.

Our very own recent Lambda Awards Night allowed a bunch of people, deserving of accolades for the energy and effort they give to community-based interests (like me, for instance), to dress up in funny clothes (a dress and "come fuck me" pumps; even the men!) and have people wildly clap at them. This wild clapping thing is an experience these folks may not have had since those immortal moments of playing the Peanut Man in the Nutrition Week pageant in third grade. (For those of you who don't remember: as you walk near the stage, you get an ugly glazed expression on your face, and you have a sudden overwhelming urge to pee. Now, wasn't that JUST like being there?)

And, to be truthful, there were deja vu moments on the stage when I WAS Mr. Peanut again. (Yes, we were cross dressing even in elementary school.) We were part of the cattle-call media awards, where members of the

straight press made speeches and the folks from the gay press (Latest ISSUE won four, heh, heh, heh) were herded into a snarling clump and NOT allowed to speak, (not EVEN to publicize the recent sale of my mini-series script about an anguished blonde gay man who can't write, but does anyway, called "House of Floss.") Besides the lost opportunity to plug the sale of "House of Floss," I also was unable to give my rendition of Sally Field's Oscar Awards Night "You like Me! You Really Like Me!" speech, which, I think, deprived the room of some free, yet cruel entertainment.

Yes, some actual talented, and hardworking people were honored by the folks at Lambda. And so were many others, whose main credentials seemed to be that they were not convicted felons (well, maybe some parolees) and could pony up the \$25 cover charge necessary to attend the

awards night. (Actually, we have it on good authority that David Koresh WAS originally a potential Lambda Award Winner, but after that nasty human bake-off in Waco, he was scratched from the short list.)

And for those of you who asked: yes, the Lambda award, in a plastic frame, WILL actually perform to federal safety standards during complicated frisbee maneuvers, when hurled with



high velocity straight at hot parking lot asphalt. We know, because our appreciative fellow-award-winner and consumer advocate Zeitler tested that very thing in the parking lot on the way out. The dang thing just bounced like crazy, but didn't shatter. But kids, don't, PLEASE DON'T try this at home. Let us, the Trained (and now, award winning) Journalists accept that risk, for you.

And as Trained (and award winning) Journalists, we feel it is only appropriate to keep that award-winning rhythmic cycle going, with the creation of our first annual "Off the Edge" Awards for strange and/or provocative actions. We call them the "Edgies."

MARQUIS DE SADE ADVERTISING AWARD: To the makers of GLAD Bags, who run those wonderfully mean ads where a harried, nervous shopper is locked, screaming, in the phone booth with a huge Glad Bag "full of angry bees," to show off their leak-proof seal. Confrontational advertising seems to be the wave of the future.

QUEEN OF DENIAL AWARD: To *News & Review* columnist (and another Lambda award winner!) Amanda, who used to be just fab, but has gotten rather whiny of late. She wins for her shameless, almost weekly, plugging of the Other Queer Paper in her column, while ignoring this award-winning publication, put together by Trained Journalists, even exists. She reportedly has said that our existence has never REALLY been proven, much like her pooh-poohing UFO sightings or the reality that Elvis is alive and manages the Winchell's in Rio Linda. Check us out Amanda; unlike other publications, we

actually make sure there are verbs AND punctuation in ALL of our stories!

THE PETER PRINCIPLE AWARD: Back long ago, in the 1970's, there was a trendy book called *The Peter Principle* which outlined one of the mainstays of corporate life, that "everyone rises to his level of incompetence." We award Governor Pete Wilson the Peter Principle Award for rising to a political level allowing him to clearly demonstrate his incompetence, which should prevent him from seeking national office, and maybe even re-election. Reconsider doing that karaoke/piano bar thing on the San Diego waterfront, Petel! It has great career potential for you.

DEBUTANTE RULES AWARD: To Large Marge, of the Townhouse, (and many other places with dim light) for understanding the subtle niceties of transgender fashion. You will NEVER see Marge in a shimmering, "after-five" sheath in the slow heat of a Sacramento afternoon. She understands the concept of "daywear" and accessorizes accordingly. (And we thank her for that.)

Anyone else who wants an Edgie award can get one. Just send me \$25, care of this paper. (Recognition is wonderful, but everything has its price.)

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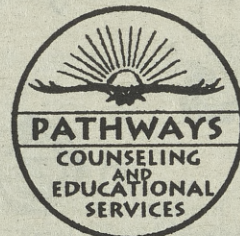
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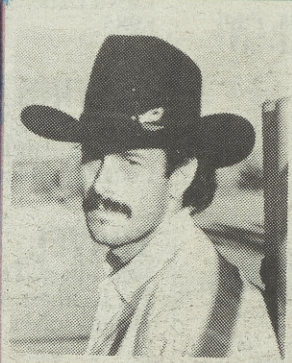
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